

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A workpiece management system for storing substantially flat workpieces after they have been removed from a workpiece storage cassette having been located within a container including a container shell and a container door within an environment that is isolated from ambient conditions, the system comprising:

C, N/A
a load port, said load port being capable of supporting the a container that has a container door removably coupled to a container shell and separating the container door from the container shell in order to provide access to the workpieces located within the container supported by the workpiece storage cassette;

a stocker having a storage area isolated from the ambient environment, said stocker adapted to store each workpiece in said storage area for storing the workpieces after the workpiece they have has been removed from the container workpiece storage cassette; and

a workpiece transfer mechanism for transferring each for removing the workpieces from the workpiece between the container storage cassette and placing the workpieces in and said storage area stocker and for transferring the workpieces from said stocker to the workpiece storage cassette.

2. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as recited in according to claim 1, wherein said stocker stores each of the workpieces in a substantially vertical orientation.

3. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as recited in according to claim 1, wherein said stocker in the workpiece management system may be varied include between one and six of said stockers.

4. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as recited in according to claim 1, wherein said stocker in the workpiece management system may

be varied include between one and eight of said stockers.

5. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as ~~recited in~~ ^{include} according to claim 1, wherein ~~said stocker~~ in the workpiece management system may be varied between one and twelve of said stockers.

6. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as ~~recited in~~ according to claim 1, wherein said stocker may be stored remotely from the workpiece management system.

7. (Currently Amended) A The workpiece management system as ~~recited in~~ according to claim 1, wherein said stocker may be used for bulk transport of reticles away from the workpiece management system.

8. (Currently Amended) A reticle management system for storing individual reticles after the reticles have been removed from a ~~reticle holding cassette located within a SMIF pod, the SMIF pod~~ having a pod door that is removably coupled to a pod shell and a pod door, the system comprising:

a load port assembly, said load port assembly being capable of supporting the SMIF pod and separating the pod door from the pod shell to provide access to the reticles stored within the SMIF pod supported by the reticle holding cassette;

a reticle stocker ~~capable of storing a plurality of individual~~ adapted to store each of the reticles once the reticle that have has been removed from the SMIF pod cassette, said reticle stocker including:

a rotatable central shaft;

a plurality of annular carousels coaxially aligned with and secured to said rotatable central shaft, each one of said plurality of annular carousels carousel having multiple substantially radially oriented slots extending outward from said rotatable central shaft such that each said slot is ~~capable of storing~~ stores an individual reticle in a substantially vertical orientation; and

a fan filter unit ~~being~~ adapted to circulate clean air by the reticles seated in

each said slot; and

a reticle transfer mechanism for transferring reticles between said slots and between said slots and the SMIF pod reticle holding cassette.

9. (Previously Canceled)

10-11. (Cancel)